

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Soft Matter

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## **Supplementary Information**

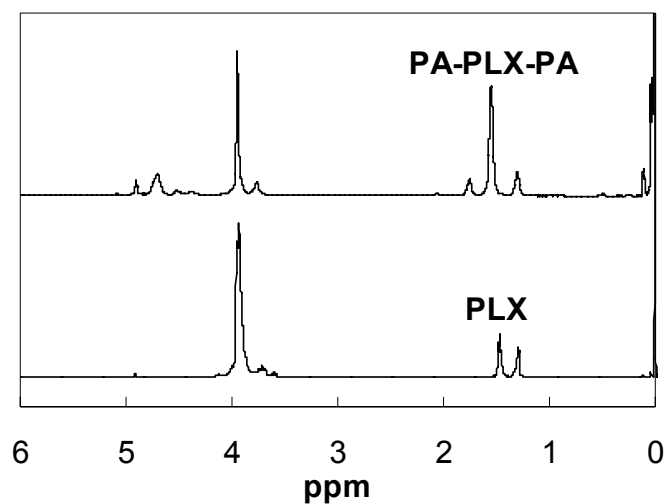
### **Thermal gelling polyalanine-ploxamine-polyalanine aqueous solution for chondrocytes 3D culture: Initial concentration effect**

Bo Gyu Choi, Min Hee Park, So-Hye Cho, Min Kyung Joo, Hye Jin Oh, Eun Hye Kim,

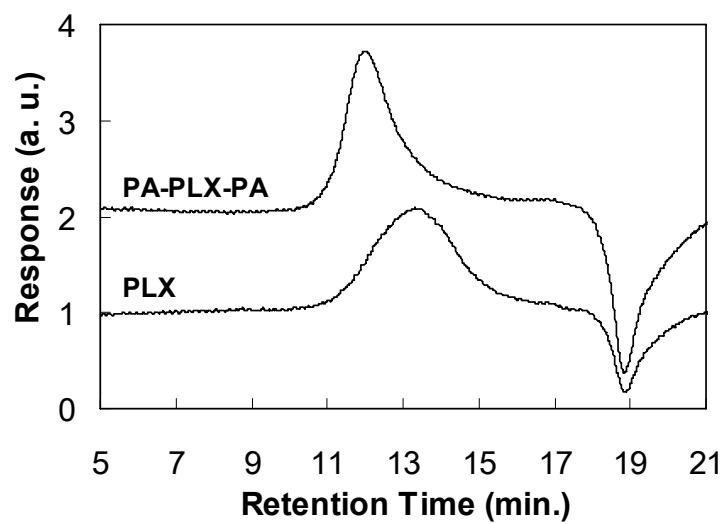
Kwideok Park, Dong Keun Han\* and Byeongmoon Jeong\*

**Fig. S1.**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum in  $\text{CF}_3\text{COOD}$  (a) and gel permeation chromatogram (b) of PLX and PA-PLX-PA.

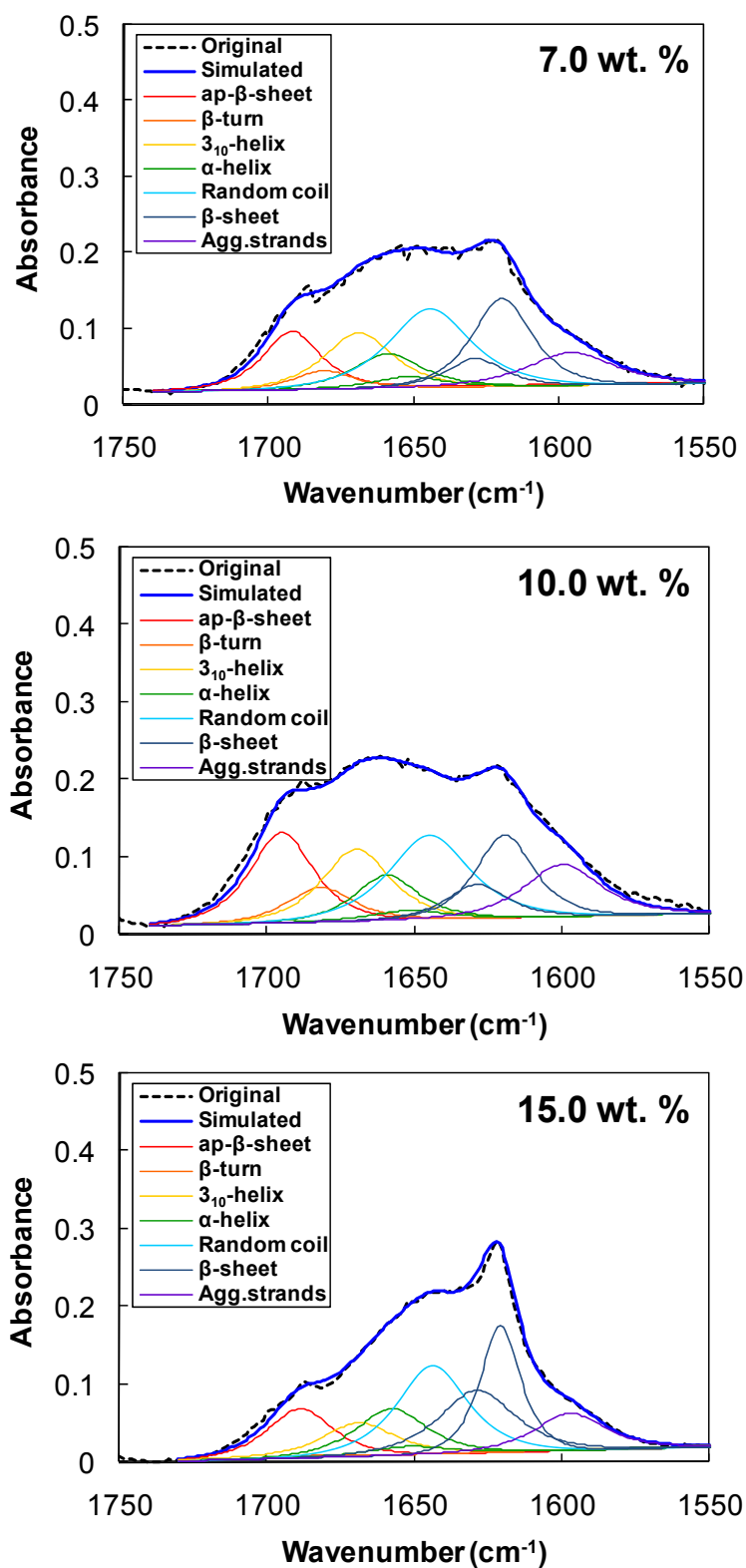
**A**



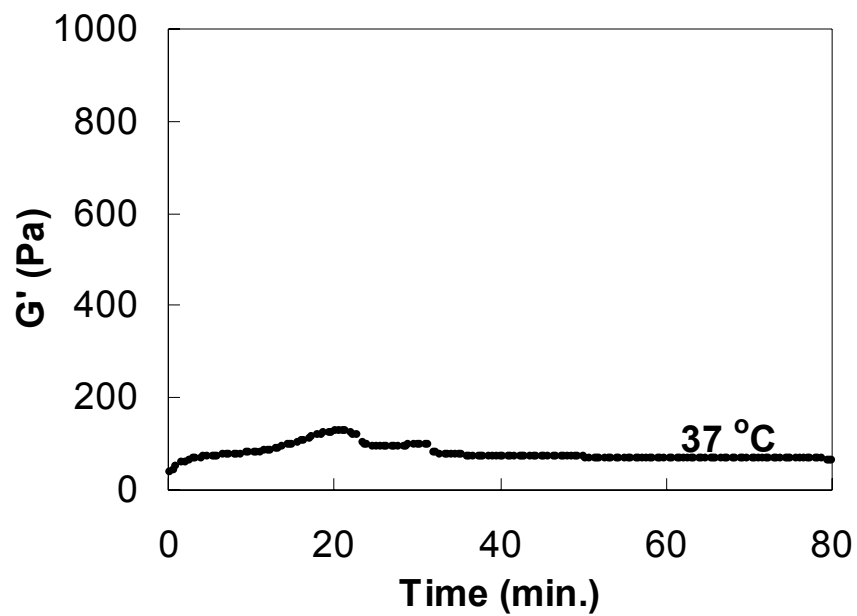
**B**



**Fig. S2.** Deconvolution of Amide I band as a function of polymer concentration.

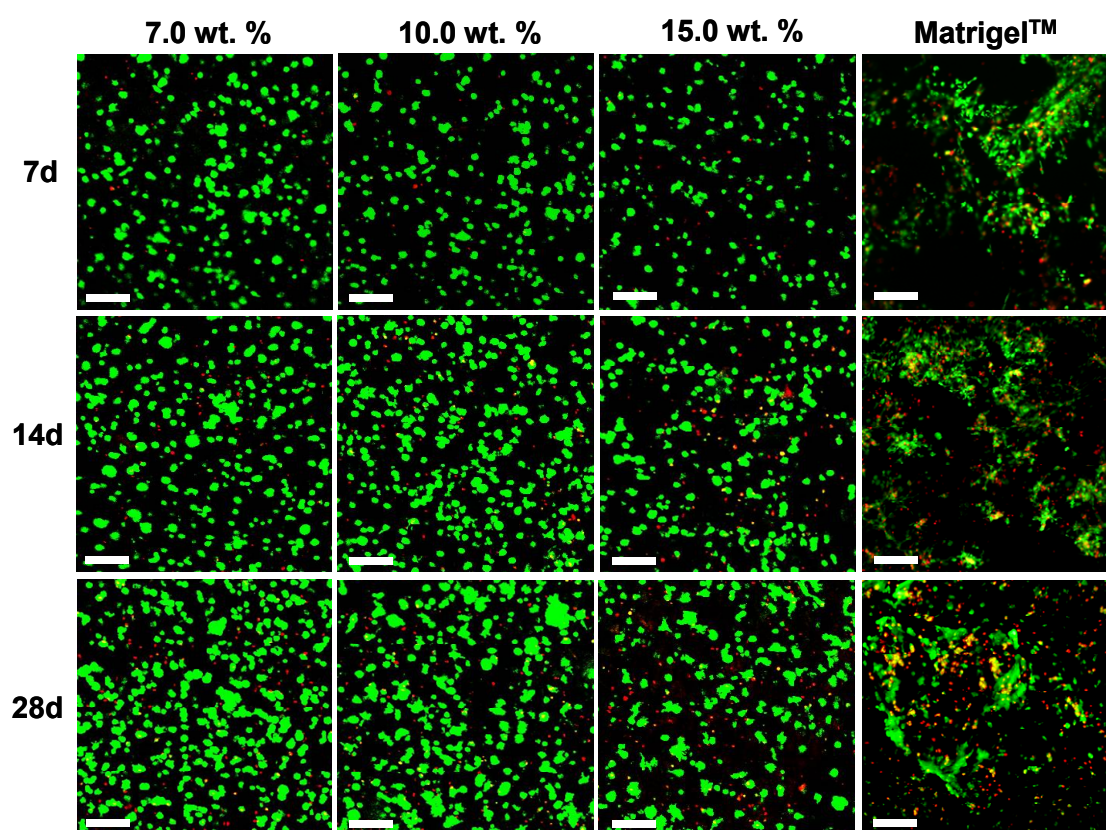


**Fig. S3.** Storage modulus of *in situ* formed Matrigel™ (as received) at 37 °C.



**Fig. S4.** Confocal microscopic images of hydrogel encapsulating chondrocytes analyzed using a Live/Dead kit. Green and red images indicate live and dead cells, respectively.

The scale bar is 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Fig. S5.** The mass loss of the hydrogel system during the in vitro incubation at 37 °C

(n=3).

